



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Region 3 - Great Lakes/Big Rivers

*Leadership in Conserving, Enhancing, and Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems*

# Alpena Fishery Resources Office Alpena, Michigan



-USFWS and DTE photos

Series of photos depicting Alpena Fishery Resources Office (FRO) activities: (Top Row, Lt. to Rt.) Alpena FRO crew sets gill nets from the M/V Togue for a fall spawning survey in Lake Huron; Lake whitefish; Jim Boase and U.S. Geological Survey staff lift a lake sturgeon set line; (Middle Row) A wetland restoration project accomplished through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program; Johnson Creek fish passage project, before and after; (Bottom Row) Invasive Eurasian ruffe are captured in gill nets in Thunder Bay River, Lake Huron; Close-up of invasive ruffe; An invasive round goby captured during a spring aquatic invasive species assessment in Lake Huron.

# Alpena Fishery Resources Office

Alpena Fishery Resources Office (FRO) was established in Alpena, Michigan in 1992 under the authority of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990 to provide fishery management assistance to Federal, state, tribal and provincial natural resource agencies in Lake Huron, its connecting waterways, and the western basin of Lake Erie. A diverse array of programs and activities are administered through the office with a staff of ten permanent and term positions and are directed at Fish and Wildlife Service priorities such as habitat conservation and native species restoration.

Alpena FRO provides leadership for implementation of the National Fish Passage Program for Lake Huron and Western Lake Erie Basins. Since 2000 the Alpena FRO has led efforts for 12 fish passage projects in lakes Huron and Erie watersheds restoring access to 75 miles of stream habitat. Numerous partnerships have been developed through these efforts and the network of partners continues to expand.

The Alpena FRO provides leadership for post-stocking evaluations of lake trout reared at National Fish Hatcheries through analysis of coded-wire tag returns and conducts fall spawning surveys at various offshore reefs in Lake Huron. In addition, the Alpena FRO has led an interagency effort in lakes Huron and Erie and the connecting St. Clair waterway to determine the status and trends of lake sturgeon stocks in those waters.



-USFWS

**Biologists Aaron Woldt and Adam Kowalski prepare to set a gill net for a fishery independent survey in Lake Huron. Lake whitefish assessments on Lake Huron help determine safe harvest limits under a Consent Decree for fishery management and allocation in 1836 Treaty waters of the upper Great Lakes.**



-USFWS

## Alpena Fishery Resources Office

**Left to Right: Aaron Woldt, Heather Enterline, Scott Koproski, Adam Kowalski, Jerry McClain, Anjanette Bowen, Tracy Hill (recently transferred to the Columbia FRO), Debra Turner, James Boase, Susan Wells**

Alpena FRO leads an effort to monitor existing invasive species populations, track their range expansion and quantify their impacts on the native fish community. Surveillance and population monitoring efforts are conducted at numerous Lake Huron ports and river mouths.

In August 2000 a 20-year agreement (Consent Decree) for fishery management and allocation was reached between the U.S., five Native American tribes and the State of Michigan for 1836 Treaty waters of lakes Superior, Michigan and Huron. To comply with terms and requirements for implementation of the Consent Decree, a Treaty Fisheries Unit was established at the Alpena FRO in 2001 to conduct fishery assessment, perform statistical catch-at-age modeling to determine safe harvest limits, and assist with management of lake trout and lake whitefish stocks in Lake Huron. Lake trout rehabilitation serves as a central focus of the Consent Decree and staff from the signatory agencies work together to ensure that commercial and recreational fisheries are conducted in a manner consistent with goals of the rehabilitation effort.

For detailed information about the Alpena Fishery Resources Office, contact the office at (989) 356-5102 or visit the Regional website at:

<http://midwest.fws.gov/alpena/index.htm>